Appl. No. 10/539,358
Response to final Office action of 26 January 2009

Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure – TC 4176

Page 2 of 9

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of controlling access to a content item in a system comprising a set of devices,

the method comprising a step of associating at least one usage right with the content item,

characterized in that

the method further comprises decomposing the usage right into a set of partial rights,

and subsequently separately signing each one of the set of partial rights, resulting in a corresponding signature.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one device in the system is able to access and exercise at least one of the partial rights after verification of the corresponding signature.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the partial rights associated with the content item comprises one of a render right, a transfer right, an offer right, a derivative work right, and a utility right.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the partial rights can only be exercised a limited number of times.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises a step where one device of the set of devices verifies whether the partial right and the issuer thereof have both not been revoked before exercising the partial right.

Appl. No. 10/539,358
Response to final Office action of 26 January 2009

Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure – TC 4176

Page 3 of 9

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said system comprises a set of devices, making up a domain comprising of devices which are related to a household or limited group of consumers.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a minimum required protection level of at least one partial right is indicated along with the partial right.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a minimum required protection level of at least one partial right is derived implicitly from the type of the partial right.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the method further comprises allowing at least one device in the system, to identify a different device,

to subsequently sign information comprising a combination of at least one partial right and at least one out of
-       an identification of the domain,
-       an identification of the different device, and
-       information about length and validity of the partial right,
and to subsequently transfer this signed combination to the different device.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the method further comprises allowing at least one device in the system, to identify a different device,

to subsequently sign at least one partial right;
and to subsequently transfer the signed partial right to the different device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the different device participates as representing a different domain.

Appl. No. 10/539,358
Response to final Office action of 26 January 2009

Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure – TC 4176

Page 4 of 9

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the transfer to the different device is allowed to occur only after at least one of the device and the different device has been verified by the other device to be at least one of being compliant and being non revoked.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the partial right is revoked or deleted by the device which transfers the right to the different device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 6,

wherein the method further comprising allowing at least one device in the system,

wherein the usage right is associated with the content item by a content provider,

wherein the usage right comprises an offer right (for a specific right),

the method further comprising requesting the content provider to execute the offer right and deliver the specific right to a specified third party,

upon which the content provider, after verification of conditions that may apply, delivers the specific right directly to the specified third party.

15. (Original) A client system comprising a set of devices, the client system being arranged to perform access control to a content item, with handling means for a usage right associated with the content item, characterized in that the usage right is a set of individually signed partial rights, and the client system is being arranged to verify individually and handle individually the partial rights.

Appl. No. 10/539,358
Response to final Office action of 26 January 2009

Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure – TC 4176

Page 5 of 9

16. (Original) A server system being arranged to perform access control to a content item, the server system further associating at least one usage right with the content item, characterized in that the server system has means to decompose the usage right into a set of partial rights, the server system further has a signing part being arranged to subsequently separately sign each one of the set of partial rights, and is arranged to bundle the individually signed partial rights into a set of individually signed partial rights.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) A device arranged to perform access control to a content item, being able to handle a usage right associated with the content item, characterized in that the device is further arranged to handle the usage right which has been split into partial rights each of the partial rights having a digital signature.